



# How to prepare for *marriage*

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful





Assalamu'alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu,

We pray that this message reaches you  
in good health and imaan.

On behalf of our AMAU Academy team, we would like  
to present to you these compiled notes that we have  
prepared to make your journey with us a lot easier.

Our notes are compiled by the AMAU Admin team  
and have not been comprehensively checked  
by a teacher.

If you find any errors or corrections that need  
to be made, kindly inform us via our email  
**helpdesk@amauacademy.com**

May Allah make our paths toward seeking  
beneficial knowledge easy and kindle our hearts  
with sincerity and gratefulness  
towards Him.

Jazakumullahu Khayran



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# Why Marry?

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*Chapter One*

## ***The first step in the marriage journey is to ask yourself why are you trying to get married?***

Your answer should be quite nuanced as marriage is more than a means of preventing Haram and following the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ.

When looking at the objectives of the Shari'ah, one of the primary objectives of marriage is building a family.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

"تَزَوَّجُوا الْوَدُودَ الْوَلُودَ فَإِنِّي مُكَاثِّرٌ بِكُمْ الْأُمَمَ"

“

**MARRY WOMEN**

**WHO ARE LOVING &**

**VERY PROLIFIC, FOR I SHALL OUTNUMBER THE PEOPLE**

**BY YOU.**

”

Sunan Abi Dawud 2050

The Prophet ﷺ told us to marry women who are loving and compassionate so that there may be love between the couple. He also recommended marrying a prolific wife so that the couple may have many children InshaAllah when building a family.

One must also consider other factors when it comes to the marriage, such as whether the marriage involves worldly benefits. An example of this is a doctor trying to marry a doctor so that they can work together.

Another important factor is setting aims and objectives to achieve as a family. These objectives should be thought of before sitting down for the marriage meeting so that you can ask the right questions to cross-check compatibility. Failing to do so will only lead to issues down the line.

# What to Look For Part 1

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*Chapter Two*



When searching for a spouse, one must find a spouse with similar plans and aims. This is done by asking good questions during the marriage meeting. This applies to both men and women.

When it comes to a spouse fulfilling the criteria of the other party, the person must realize that the person they are interested in will not fit their criteria 100%, so they must be willing to compromise on certain secondary traits if everything else seems good. Asking the right questions during the marriage meeting helps immensely in shortlisting the right spouse.

The main trait one should look for in a spouse is religion as the Prophet ﷺ said:

01

"تُنْكَحُ الْمَرْأَةُ لَأَرْبَعٍ لِمَالِهَا وَلِحَسَبِهَا وَجَمَالِهَا وَلِدِينِهَا، فَاظْفَرْ بِذَاتِ الدِّينِ تَرِبْتُ يَدَاكَ"  
"A woman is married for four things, i.e., her wealth, her family status, her beauty and her religion. So you should marry the religious woman (otherwise) you will be a losers."

Sahih al-Bukhari 5090

In the Hadith mentioned above, "تَرِبْتُ يَدَاكَ" is an expression used in Arabic which has two opposite meanings. The usage in this Hadith means that the person has owned everything. The same expression is also used in the Quran in the verse below, but in this case, it means the person owns nothing.

02

"أَوْ مُسْكِينًا ذَا مَثْرَبَةٍ"  
"Or a needy person in misery"

The Quran 90:16

However, religion does not necessarily indicate marrying someone who memorised the Quran or someone who wears the Niqab. These are aspects of the Deen, not the entire thing. For the men, the most important factor when choosing a wife is that she is submissive; this is the best wife. The wife's obedience to the husband is a must as that is his right in exchange for her rights which include finance and maintenance. How her submission relates to the Deen is through Khuluq (manners), which is one of the most important aspects of the Deen. One of the ways to know whether the woman is submissive is to examine her relationship with her parents. If she is disrespectful towards her parents, she will be disrespectful towards you.


Going back to the trait of memorising the Quran, if this comes as a package with the wife being submissive and dutiful towards her parents, then this is very good. Her memorisation, in this case, shows that she has a high level of patience and perseverance.



# What to Look For Part 2

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*Chapter Three*




When searching for the right man, women must also find out about him. They should ask about his character, relationship with his parents, and prayer. They should also find out if he is a troublemaker or if he is known to be good and righteous. The woman's father or brother can gather this information by asking the man's local masjid and community.

It is important to avoid getting married with the 'I'm going to fix him/her' mentality as in 90% of cases this fails, and for those who succeeded, it was after years of work; this is not worth the time commitment. An example of this is marrying a smoker, and it is almost never a good idea to marry one.

Moving on, another major aspect that people should look for is beauty, specifically attraction. There should be some attraction between the spouses, or else problems will arise, especially regarding intimacy. People have the mistaken idea that the Hadith of the Prophet ﷺ says to get married to a religious woman without considering anything else; a woman can have all four traits mentioned in the Hadith.

Finally, It is recommended that you see the other person face-to-face in the marriage meeting because pictures can be deceiving. Meeting the person also allows you to ask questions (discussed in episode 1), which could change how attracted you are to the person. For example, a woman might lose her attraction to a man because he lacks masculinity and is very feminine. This is why both parties should have a detailed, well-planned interview with each other.



# Intercultural Marriage

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*Chapter Four*



***The first step in the marriage journey is to ask yourself why are you trying to get married?***

A lot of issues stem from the couple having different backgrounds and expectations. Even though it is not Haram, one must know what they are doing as some cultures mix while others do not.

One of the main factors that decide whether the marriage will function smoothly is the husband's attitude. The husband must not judge his wife's actions and attitude based on his culture rather than hers.

For example, in some cultures, the wife is expected to serve her parents-in-law even though she is Islamically not obligated. Another example is how women are made equal to men in the West, even though that is not the case in Islam. In both cases, issues will arise after the honeymoon phase ends, and the couple realizes this is not what they expected.

Allah mentions in the Quran:

01

وَالرِّجَالُ عَلَىٰ نِسَائِهِمْ دَرَجَةٌ

**"But the men [i.e., husbands] have a degree over them [in responsibility and authority]."**

The Quran 2:228

This is why men should find submissive and obedient wives, and women should find righteous husbands who will only command them to do good. This leader-follower relationship is crucial for a successful marriage as when two people take charge, chaos follows.

These issues can be avoided if the couple understands the challenges of intercultural marriages and plans their path during their marriage meetings.

# Finding a Spouse Through Family

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*Chapter Five*

“ **THE BEST WAY**  
**TO FIND A SPOUSE**  
**IS THROUGH THE FAMILY.** ”

For the man, this could be his mother, sister, or extended family. After finding a potential prospect, they can sit for a marriage meeting and cross-check compatibility.

This method of looking for a spouse has many advantages. The first is that you cannot be scammed as both the families know each other, and they can background check the person. Another advantage is that you can ask about everything, small and big.

For example, getting to know why the spouse’s family moved from the West to a Muslim country and if that was done for religious or business purposes. This can help understand the spouse’s family values, which would reflect on the spouse.

Side benefit: When it comes to marriage problems, spouses should never let their issues leave the house unless it is a huge problem. They should seek counselling with a specialist who has Deen and try to find a solution. They should not tell anyone else in the family because even if the couple fixes their problem, the family will never forget.

Another benefit of marrying through the family is that the family will be there in case a major conflict occurs that requires immediate intervention. Marrying someone from another country where you have no family is very risky because if the spouse turns out to be bad, then there is no one there to help you.

A point to contemplate for men is that if a family marries their daughter off to you and you live in another country, you should appreciate what that family has done in trusting you. This should be a reason for you to be even more patient with their daughter as a sign of gratitude.

All of this does not mean that one should involve their family in all their marital affairs. Doing so is a recipe for divorce. The best advice here is to choose the middle path when it comes to deciding when to involve the family and when not to.



# The Searching Criteria

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*Chapter Six*

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In terms of the family's task of finding a spouse, many families make the grave mistake of finding someone that will make them and the community happy, not necessarily their children. This causes issues, especially if the son or daughter is looking for specific traits such as religion which might be overlooked in society. This inevitably leads to distrust between the children and the parents.

For example, families rejecting righteous men because they come from families that are lower than them in terms of name and wealth. This has many negative consequences, such as the daughter not getting married for years, or the daughter being married off to a vile man due to his wealth.

***A wealthy family can buy their way out of problems, but they cannot buy their way out of Hellfire.***

Families should fear Allah and find spouses that will inshaAllah make their children happy. Giving your child to a righteous person has the benefit of knowing that your child's spouse will fear Allah and will not oppress them even if it gets hard.

On the other hand, if the parents choose bad spouses for their children and the couple's problems start to accumulate, the parents will be dragged into these issues and will be blamed as they were the ones who chose the spouse for their child.

Moving on, when talking about righteous spouses in terms of men, it does not mean that the person must be a sheikh or someone who memorised the Quran. It could be someone who prays in congregation, has a good reputation, and has a decent job. This is not an ideal world, and one should not expect someone like the companions of the Prophet ﷺ.

Parents must also not marry their children off to anyone who does not pray or is known for Zina and alcohol with the mentality that they will stop doing so after marriage. This is oppression on their behalf, and they will be questioned about this by Allah.

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# Finding a Spouse Through Other Means

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*Chapter Seven*



Some people do not have access to a family to aid them in finding a spouse such as reverts. In these cases, other options are considered, which might differ from place to place.

One of these options is through a masjid's Imam, as they might have connections through the sisters who attend the masjid. Another option is through word of mouth, as in people talking about how this revert sister is looking for a righteous husband or vice versa.

Even if you are looking to get married through these other means, you must still have a plan (as discussed previously) and should arrange a marriage meeting to cross-check compatibility.

### Advice to Reverts

When searching for a righteous spouse, do not assume that you will marry someone who follows the teachings of Islam as you expect from a Muslim, so be careful and choose wisely.

Another option that is brought to the table is matchmaking websites. These websites have both pros and cons. The main pro of these websites is that you might find a spouse across the globe who is compatible with you, and they agree to move with you.

On the other hand, a con is that if something is too good to be true, that is most likely the case. Matchmaking websites are also very risky as the person might be susceptible to scams and fake people.

For example, someone might ask for money as a means of aid before going through with the marriage proposal but end up disappearing after the money is received.

It must be pointed out that matchmaking sites differ greatly from each other as some are set up in a Halal way where the man gets in touch with the Wali directly, while others are just Haram dating sites where men and women chat and flirt with each other.

All in all, all other means should be considered and tried before going to matchmaking sites as they are very risky, and that is the nature of not knowing the person personally or through a connection; they should be your last resort.

**Side benefit:** Some people give up on finding a righteous spouse and get into the mentality of trying to marry anyone. This is very detrimental, and they usually end up in a position worse than the one they were in before marriage.

# Working On Yourself

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*Chapter Eight*

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Many things are ambiguous and out of your hands when it comes to marriage and finding a spouse. This is why you should rely on Allah and fix your relationship with Him through working on yourself.

This is extremely important as the consequences of marrying someone vile is a recipe for a lifetime of suffering. It will affect all aspects of your life, from worship to work. Having arguments at work is different to having an argument with family because you can leave work but not your family.

***Therefore, one must seek aid  
in Allah through worship and change  
themselves before marriage as that might  
lead them to find the righteous spouse they  
are looking for; Allah is in control, and  
He must be sought for help.***

One must not claim that they are sincere in searching for a righteous spouse while indulging in Sins and being disobedient to Allah.

The shaykh also mentioned a story of a man he personally knows who changed his life for the sake of Allah when he wanted to get married, and Allah gave him a righteous wife from a place he did not expect.

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series that you have  
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